REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed April 21, 2005.

In the present paper, claim 3, 6, 7 and 9 been amended and claims 1, 2, 11-18 and 21-24 have been canceled. Claims 19 and 20 had been canceled in a previous response. Claims 3-10 remain in the case, and are presented here for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Claims

In the subject Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11-18, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,629,982 to Micali ("Micali") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,633,916 to Goldhagen et al. ("Goldhagen") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,506 to Kara ("Kara").

The Examiner has allowed claim 10.

In the present paper, Applicant has canceled all rejected independent claims, and has amended the dependencies of claims 3, 6, 7 and 9 so that claims 3-9 now depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 10. Applicant has canceled all other dependent claims.

The remaining dependent claims were originally dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 2, which contains two "sending" steps similar to those of claim 10. All elements of the remaining dependent claims therefore have antecedent basis in their new status as dependent on claim 10.

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Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his careful consideration and allowance of claim 10. Applicant submits that dependent claims 3-9 are patentable at least by reason of their dependency, directly or indirectly, on allowed claim 10.

Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that all the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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